GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
PRIORITY TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURE FOR EMPLOYMENT
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to give priority to promote agriculture for employment generation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has chalked out any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent these scheme will be helpful?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): Keeping in view the fact that two-thirds of India`s population depend on agriculture, the Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of promoting agriculture with a sense of urgency. As mentioned in the Union Budget for 2005-06, the bulk of public investment in agriculture takes place at the State level, and the Central Government`s support to States acts as a catalyst. The Central Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households, The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development / strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization. These measures are expected to enhance investment, employment and income in agricultue.